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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: OTTAWA, MONTREAL, ST. JOHN'S

FROM : Amconsul, QUEBEC

DATE: May 13, 1965

SUBJECT: Lesage Statement on Rectification of Labrador Frontier

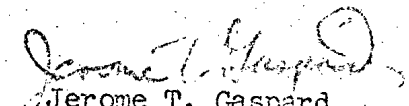
REF : Our A-117, May 12, 1965

According to the first report, Premier Jean LESAGE stated yesterday that Quebec's agreement with BRINCO was not contingent on an agreement with Newfoundland on the borders of Labrador, but would be subject to any border agreements subsequently reached.

A later and more complete Canadian Press report clarified that what Lesage had actually said was that a possible agreement between Brinco and Hydro-Quebec could not enter in force unless there was an agreement in principle between the Government of Quebec and the Government of Newfoundland on the rectification of the Labrador border. "This is a condition which we have posed to the Government of Newfoundland since the beginning of the negotiations on Churchill Falls."

Lesage pointed out however that the possible understanding between Brinco and Hydro-Quebec is independent of the rectification of the Labrador border; the border settlement is a condition of the entry into force of the agreement.

Explaining his thought Lesage added, "I say to the Prime Minister of Newfoundland. We will help you to develop Churchill Falls if you agree to rectify the Labrador frontier so that Quebec will possess the basins of its rivers." This could be accomplished, he thought, by an exchange of territories.


Jerome T. Gaspard
American Consul General

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Drafted by: JTGaspard:is

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